PFS Calculator FAQ

CNATRA N7 has received a number of questions regarding PFS Calculator (also referred to as the new NSS Calculator). This document is intended to provide the users of the PFS Calculator answers to these questions.

Do students still need to be finalized in TIMS?
Yes. N6 queries TIMS for this information for a variety of reports (e.g., PFS Calculator, WingStats).

Do I still need to hit the calculate button in TIMS?
Yes. Calculating unit scores and computing student grades in TIMS tells TIMS to populate specific TIMS data tables required for the generation of Completion Information Reports in the PFS Calculator. Note that whether or not you calculate unit scores / compute student grades in TIMS, PFS will still calculate student NSSs.

How are norm groups defined by the PFS calculator?
As explained in the CNATRANOTE 1500, norm groups are based on the last 60 completers (i.e., completed all blocks of training counted towards NSS regardless of whether the student is finalized in TIMS) or 26 weeks, whichever is greater. For a student whose grades are updated on Wed 15 OCT 2008, this means that their norm group will start on Wed 8 OCT 2008 and will include the last 60 completers on or before that date or 26 weeks, whichever is greater. For a student whose grades are updated on Thu 16 OCT 2008, this means that their norm group will start on Thu 9 OCT 2008 and will include the last 60 completers on or before that date or 26 weeks, whichever is greater.

When do I finalize students in PFS?
Students should be finalized in PFS after the first PFS update following completion of their last graded event in their curriculum and before the second PFS update. Only Wing or Squadron PFS Administrators can finalize student records in PFS. Once students are finalized in PFS student NSS will not be recalculated during PFS updates. Until students are finalized in PFS student NSS will be recalculated during PFS updates. This is due to the manner in which norm groups are defined in PFS (see CNATRANOTE 1500, PFS User Guide, PFS Administrator Guide, or FAQ re: Norm Group definition for more information on norm groups). Note that if a student is finalized early, it will be necessary to unfinalize the student so that the student's NSS can be calculated during the next PFS update.

Should all students in a selection group or winging class have the same norm group?
Student norm groups should be based on when the student completed their last graded event, not based on the student's selection or winging date. This means that in many instances students in the same selection group or winging class will have their grades calculated based on different norm groups. This is intentional as it ensures that student grades are normalized based on the training environment and grading practices in place at the time they complete training allowing comparison of student grades across both squadrons and time.

I need to schedule a manual update for my Squadron. How do I do this?
Your Wing PFS Administrator can schedule a manual update if necessary. It is important to finalize in PFS any student who has completed training and has already had their NSS updated in PFS prior to the overnight update. Otherwise, their NSS will be recalculated during the overnight update.

Will the PFS Calculator calculate student NSSs if I don't hit the calculate button for my students in TIMS?
Yes, the PFS Calculator will calculate student NSSs regardless of whether or not you calculate student NSSs in TIMS. The only reason that you need to calculate student grades in TIMS is that calculating student grades in TIMS tells TIMS to populate specific data tables required for the generation of Completion Information Reports in the PFS Calculator.

I hit the calculate button and finalized my student in TIMS today and my student's Completion Information Report in PFS does not show my student's Block data. Why is this happening?
The PFS Calculator pulls data from the Headquarters TIMS database. The local TIMS databases replicate to the HQ TIMS database nightly. This means that the PFS calculator will not see changes you make to the local database until the next day.

My student was Marginal or UNSAT on an incomplete event and received an automatic Marginal or UNSAT when they completed the flight. This means that they are getting two hits for being Marginal or UNSAT on one event, which impacts their grades since Marginals and UNSATs now count towards NSS. How should this be handled?
CNATRA N7 is currently in the process of updating the 1500. In that update new guidance will be provided for handling Marginals and UNSATs on incomplete events. Students who are Marginal or UNSAT on the incomplete sortie will receive an overall grade of PASS. The IP will clone the event, comment on student performance on the incomplete sortie (i.e., Marginal or UNSAT and why), and assign an overall grade of Marginal or UNSAT to the cloned event with comments. In the event that the student's performance was Marginal on the incomplete sortie and UNSAT on the cloned event, the student's overall grade will be changed to UNSAT on the cloned event. The various scenarios that might be encountered are summarized in the table below. While practices vary to some extent across Wings and Squadrons, for most the only change this represents from current SOP is that the IP on the incomplete sortie will no longer assign an overall grade of Marginal / UNSAT to the incomplete sortie. This will ensure that students will no longer receive multiple Marginals or UNSATs for a single lesson designator.

| Incomplete Sortie | | Complete Sortie | |
Performance	Grade	Performance	Grade
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Marginal	Marginal
Pass	Pass	Unsat	Unsat
Marginal	Pass, w/ comment	Pass	Marginal
Marginal	Pass, w/ comment	Marginal	Marginal
Marginal	Pass, w/ comment	Unsat	Unsat
Unsat	Pass, w/ comment	Pass	Unsat
Unsat	Pass, w/ comment	Marginal	Unsat
Unsat	Pass, w/ comment	Unsat	Unsat